

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, April 9, 1970

## TALES OF OLD DUXBURY

The following article was found in the attic of the late LeRoy and Blanche Peterson by their daughter Ann Glover Wiswell of Topsfield. The year of the issue was not enclosed.

Duxbury, July 29-- A waterspout on Duxbury Bay, near Clarks Island, during a severe thunderstorm this afternoon, was the unusual phenomenon witnessed by hundreds of residents here. So far as is known a waterspout, although it is common in the West Indies and

the tropics, has never appeared here before.

It first appeared as a smoky mist about two miles off from the Standish shore about 3 o'clock. The mist thickened and formed a cloud, which suddenly shot down a long snaky black arm to within about 150 feet of the surface of the water.

Swirling and twisting about this black cloud was seen to draw up water which rose in a funnel shaped column from the surface of the bay. The cloud

appeared to some like the black smoke from a petroleum fire, twisting and rising like coils of rope.

The water rose to a height of between 100 and 150 feet above the surface of the bay and flew off in all directions as spray. It was probably several hundred yards across at the surface of the bay and it spread out in a funnel-shaped cloud about a half-mile wide at the top.

The phenomenon lasted about 15 minutes, slowly moving in a southwesterly direction toward Kingston.

The thunderstorm during which the waterspout appeared was the first of three which passed over the town this afternoon, accompanied by very heavy rains. The third storm, between 5 and 6 o'clock, was the most violent and three or four trees were shattered by lightning bolts. No serious damage was done to dwellings.